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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

SP - 184/76  
2 November 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT: Strategic Balance Charts, NSSM 246

1. As a student of the question of how to measure the strategic balance, I have been especially interested in the first section of the strategic portion of the draft NSSM. I have taken the liberty of passing [redacted] the intelligence representative on the strategic section working group, some comments and recommendations on the comparative force indices. My comments go beyond the usual intelligence focus on projecting the Soviet side of the equation. They are made in the spirit of seeking to conceptualize valid measures and to ensure that valid, comparable entries are used for both sides. They are also made with respect for the difficulty the working group faces in trying to boil it all down to a few key measures, as well as respect for what they have achieved so far.

2. While I assume that my comments are self-explanatory and that the working group will take them into account, I am sending them direct to you as well because I know from past experience that you and I share a common interest in the challenge of communicating briefly, accurately and effectively about the key comparisons relevant to US security interests in this area.

Howard Stoertz, Jr.  
National Intelligence Officer  
for Strategic Programs

Attachment

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